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## AFRICA

**My March to Timbuctoo.** By General Joffre. With a biographical introduction by Ernest Dimnet. 169 pp. Map. Duffield & Co., New York, 1915. 75 cents. 7½ x 5.

In 1892 Major Joffre of the French army (36 years old) was sent to French West Africa to superintend the building of the railroad from Kayes, at the head of navigation on the Senegal River, to Bammako on the Niger. Long before Major Joffre had completed his task he was ordered to lead a military force up the west side of the Niger to take possession of the country and to assist Col. Bonnier, who had entered Timbuctoo, but, five days later, was killed by the Tuaregs, with 11 of his officers. No one knew this till Joffre heard it when approaching the famous town; so he hurried on to Timbuctoo, trounced the Tuaregs till he was triumphant and established so firmly French supremacy over Timbuctoo and that whole part of French West Africa that it has never since been in jeopardy to this day.

In this book he tells the story of that northern march and of the strenuous work at the end of it; all with such brevity and clearness that the reader is reminded of the style of Cæsar's Commentaries. It was his first great opportunity. On the border of the Niger he unconsciously paved the way for the steady advancement that came to him, till now he is the supreme commander of the French forces in the present conflict.

The introduction in 48 pp. is a well-written account of Joffre from his boyhood up. The chief impression it conveys is that, as boy and man, he was never showy, never scheming, but rose from place to place only as he was called to higher service by demonstrated capacity to fulfill its duties.

**Wild Game in Zambezia.** By R. C. F. Maugham. xii and 376 pp. Map, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. 9 x 6.

In this hunter's guide the material has been so carefully arranged that the book may be used as a fairly comprehensive text of the fauna of Zambezia. The author has largely subordinated his own exploits, but his book will be helpful to other seekers of wild game; and the public will find the work a good source book of original observations not only on the big game but also on the reptiles, birds and insects of the region. Considerable detail is given of the habitat, food and noteworthy and special characteristics of each animal and of the indications in any locality of the presence of animals. Accounts of insect pests include a chapter on the tsetse fly. General advice concerning equipment and conduct is given.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**The Rediscovered Country.** By Stewart E. White. vii and 358 pp. Map, ills. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1915. \$2. 8½ x 5½.

The rediscovered country is a virgin game field along the boundary line between British East Africa and German East Africa between Lake Natron and Victoria Nyanza. The author gives a most readable account of his adventures. The appendices include a guide for the novice, a brief annotated list of game and a discussion of the mooted question of animal coloration.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**Im Hochland von Mittel-Kamerun.** Von Franz Thorbecke. I. Teil. 101 pp. Map, ills. *Abhandl. Hamburg. Kolonialinst.*, Vol. 21 (Reihe C, Vol. 1). L. Friederichsen & Co., Hamburg, 1914. 11 x 7½.

Unfamiliar ground was opened to knowledge by Dr. Thorbecke's expedition into the unexplored highlands of Kamerun. He found that the hills establish a difference in climate which provides a sanitary change from the unwholesome conditions at Duala and other settlements on the coast. Dr. Thorbecke was accompanied by his wife, to whom we owe excellent photographs of landscape and folk. The volume presents the day's marches and the impressions made upon the travelers by the new country. It is planned to present the formal record of results in a succeeding volume. Such an exploration conducted by a

small party naturally has to utilize the hospitality and the transport of the natives; accordingly, the record is filled with shrewd estimates of the diversity of the mountain tribesmen. Such day by day record frequently offers us the most valuable data upon manners and customs. Particular interest attaches to the unexpected discovery of a tribe of pygmies never before reported from Kamerun. The existence of contemporary nanoid peoples has so illuminating a bearing upon the study of prehistoric man that the discovery of a new group of pygmies must be welcomed as one of the prizes of exploration.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Und Afrika Sprach.** Bericht über den Verlauf der dritten Reise-Periode der Deutschen Inner-Afrikanischen Forschungs-Expedition in den Jahren 1910 bis 1912. Von Leo Frobenius. 669 pp. Ills. Deutsches Verlagshaus, Berlin-Charlottenburg, 1913 (?). Mk. 20. 10 x 7½.

Under this somewhat cryptic title, we have the third series of reports of the travels of Frobenius in inner Africa, the Sudan and lands adjacent. He chooses to appeal to the popular interest. That his works have attained a large popular circulation and approval is fair enough testimony to a general interest in mysterious Africa. Here, as before, he elaborates his theory of Atlantis. It is the source for him of all that which otherwise in Africa would remain inexplicable. We need not comment upon the insubstantiality of Atlantis. It rests upon the statements of Plato and his copyists. What was the source whence Plato derived it we have no means of discovery. All our folk-lore is filled with these shadows out of the western sea—St. Brandan's Isle, Hy-Brasail, a dozen shadowy lands of the ocean. The theme is well worked out in Nansen's "In Northern Mists" and the myth is plain. Therefore it is out of the question to give serious consideration to an Atlantidean source of the culture of African savages in any one group, wholly impossible to derive therefrom so many and such various cultures as are now established through more solid methods of investigation. Yet, apart from this hypothesis, the work is of great interest and contains a large mass of valuable information not elsewhere accessible.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

## EUROPE

**La Finlande aux Mille Lacs.** Par Jules Leclercq. 282 pp. Map, ills. Plon-Nourrit et Cie., Paris, 1914. 7½ x 5.

Much interesting information is concentrated in this book. It is asserted that Finland is still in process of uplift. The number of islands is slowly diminishing, and whole portions of the old archipelago are now attached to the mainland. Mr. Leclercq tells us that more than one old fisherman remembers sailing his boat over the spot where now the shepherd pastures his sheep, but like similar evidence, such tales by unskilled observers have but a meager value until thoroughly checked by independent evidence. Many charming lakes and valleys were formerly arms of the sea.

In view of its location in the area of intense glacial erosion in the ice age it is natural that only one-twelfth of the land should be arable, about four-fifths forest, rock, and marsh, and one-eighth lake. In consequence the 2,500,000 inhabitants are occupying only a small fraction of the land and thus the density of population is very high. Politically Finland has been unhappy, for her relations with Russia are not congenial. The author explains much when he says that the ethnographic distance between Finland and Russia is perhaps greater than the geographic distance.

**Schweden.** Historisch-Statistisches Handbuch im Auftrage der Kgl. Regierung herausgegeben von J. Guinchard. 2. Auflage, Deutsche Ausgabe. Vol. 1: Land und Volk. xxiii and 850 pp. Vol. 2: Gewerbe. xi and 808 pp. Maps, ills, index. P. A. Norstedt & Söner, Stockholm, 1913. 9½ x 6½.

This admirable handbook will rank as a standard work on Sweden. It is remarkably comprehensive, covering every phase of the nature and development